

New Address: Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701

10/1/68

Dear ~~XXXXXXXX~~ Cedric,

After 5 years of averaging four or less hours sleep a night I have decided that the long pull requires my slimming down and resting up. There is to be as long a pull as I visualized 11/22/63. What I did not visualize is how few there would be in harness. I'm a very lonely jackass.

So, I now stay abed eight hours, and I find it exhausting for a simple medical reason: I tore everything loose at the base of the spine in a boating accident 30 years ago. When my back relaxes thoroughly at night, it is unwilling to work. So, I awaken unsteady and weak. I am coping with this by an hour or two of immediate physical labor on "our" beautiful place so long abandoned, and I exult in it. I can see and feel muscles again and am without clothes to wear on a coming trip, my friendly tailor having told me that taking 10 inches off the waistband makes the pants pockets neat. Today I will teach him about pleats, which he never put in pants! and in less than three weeks I'll be on the way to California. I've arranged a speech there which will pay the cost and I'll be able to confer with some wonderful young people with whom I've been working cooperatively but haven't seen since February. The state of freedom is such I dare not entrust my knowledge to the mails or phone lines.

But, my natural unsteadiness give me the opportunity to write and thank you for forwarding my letter to Sally, from whom I've heard nothing and for referring me to Marcue Pardines, who, I hope, will yet respond.

You are busy. This letter requires no answer. As I sat and sipped the hot coffee on awakening, an old query returned to mind: why have the Cubans never interested themselves in my work, never tried to understand its significance, never sought to make the possible immediate use of it? Can it be they are entirely unaware of it? A current problem with one "refugee" and recent discoveries about several others ~~occupy~~ occupy my thoughts. I am in a wonderful position to apply some intellectual judo but lack the legal fulcrum. One of them, one Carlos Bringuier, formerly a Havana court clerk, son of a judge who went insane and brother-in-law of a man ~~in~~ understand was Batista's defense minister, a real radical-right nut, has filed a series of frivolous law suits against me, alleging libel without bothering to allege error. The things I wrote of him are accurate and in any event, totally privileged. He has gotten a law firm of dubious connections to handle this costly work without fee. Where Dell was involved, Dell hired a lawyer, with the money they never pay me, so there is defense, and his cases get tossed out of court or there are decisions against him. That he has done puts me in a position to sue him, which means that before trial I can take a deposition. Because the issue is so broad, I can ask him almost any question, and if he lies, there is perjury. Failing to get a lawyer, I have made a public issue of his reluctance to serve any papers on me (believe it or not, he never has in any of the suits against me!), thus seeing to it I am not in court. Now, when I again go to New Orleans, he will not dare evade this. When he does, I'll publicly ask the ACLU to defend me and if they do not, I'll shame them further by acting as my own counsel. But I'll force the issue, because of what I can establish through either his testimony or my questioning and the documents I'll offer in evidence. In order to make this possible, the interest on my extensive debt now being due, and I do not have it, I am soliciting speeches down there. After Columbus and Cleaver, this is less likely.

One way or another, it will, sometime, happen. For that day, and for other reasons, for this can be a classic example of "refugees", men who come here and get themselves involved in the murder of a President, I would like to know more about him. He enjoys the patronage of the New Orleans "liberals", the largess of Clare Luce, and the benefactions of Billy James Hargis, a fit crew. Other anti-Castro, who hate him (his nickname is El Estupido, approx., which I understand means "the stupid"), tell me he used to carry "yankee go home" signs in Havana. I'd dearly love such a picture! He entered in 1961 on immigrant status, through Argentina, which flags interest, and almost immediately had no hesitation in telling other Cubans of an FBI connection.

Two others who performed a function duplicating his, which I hope you recall from WHITENASH, if not OSWALD IN NEW ORLEANS - he helped Oswald establish a cover - have surfaced in the Robert Kennedy assassination. I have much material on them I'll be adding to COUP D'ETAT in the next few days. They are one Dr. Fernando Benabaz and Major Jose Duarte. This pair started the hue and cry that Sirhan is a Castro type. Benabaz, at the time of the JFK murder, shouted that Castro did it and got wide radical-right attention I understand Benabaz was born in Baltimore, returned to Cuba as a lawyer, wound up with major American corporations as client, and now edits, publishes of both, a sheet called "Insight On The News", in Miami.

If any of your sources can supply any information on any of these it could ~~xxxx~~ be helpful.

A while back, when the Guardian ran a review of Lane's "A Citizen's Dissent", I wrote the author chiding him because of his plaint that the writing in the field was without doctrine, telling him only that writing suppressed by his paper because of its involvement with Lane had the doctrine he sought. It was intercepted by a staffer describing himself as director of cultural affairs and seeking my unpublished work for a book subsidiary they are starting. I told them, in response, that for an advance adequate for a month of hard work I would give them a book OSWALD AGENT or GANE OSWALD, with the suppressed official evidence on this and, because it is appropriate to such a study, the real inside of the Commission's top-secret deliberations - which I have, a stack an inch and a half thick. In itself, this is quite a story. I now have what I have every reason to believe is Oswald's CIA identification and the staff papers that were suppressed. In three weeks there has been no answer. From what I now have in hand I could do such a book, and it would be a significant one, I think, not duplicating what is known and telling quite a story about the intelligence boys, too. My interest in having things checked out in Mexico is in part this aspect.

However, it seems that in every land the American assassinations are taboo. It is a month since I wrote Czollek at Volk und Welt about COUP D'ETAT and he has not answered. Strangely, five weeks after they said they give me an answer in a week, Playboy was still agonizing. The week extension they asked has passed. Tomorrow I have a date with editors of a more significant publication on the content of my book on the autopsy, which is the very hottest of all. That surprises me is that they even consider it. Perhaps there is a Chicago backlash. However, a deal with either of these will pay the cost of private publication of either book.

I wish you could see what I have. You would then have a real commentary on our time and people, when such stuff can go unpublished.

My purpose in writing is not to burden you but to thank you and to put you in a position to make inquiries for me should the occasion offer itself.

Best personal regards,